

I am troubled, and have been troubled for a long time, about the consolidation of news networks; it seems as if the entire media in this country is in the hands of a very few corporate conglomerates. What this amounts to is that these very few corporations are in charge of the news and the messages that the American public receives. And very few corporations, means very few voices, and very few points of view.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I am concerned that this is a media organization controlling what the public hears--and not making the same provision for the opposite point of view.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. The media all need to act for the good of the public--and earn the public's trust. Thank you.